

Q. Do hookah bars need a tobacco license?

A. Hookah (shisha) is a tobacco product. If the bar acquires hookah from a Colorado licensed distributor who has paid the excise tax, a tobacco license is not needed. If the bar orders its hookah from an out-of-state, unlicensed distributor or manufacturer then a tobacco license is required.

Q. What is required to open a cigar bar?

A. Contact the Department of Public Health and Environment for requirements on opening a cigar bar in Colorado. State tobacco licensing information can be found in FYI Excise 17:Tobacco Products Distribution – General Information.

Q. Does a vendor need a license if they receive tobacco products from out-of-state and immediately export tobacco products?

A. Yes a license is required. Statute defines a tobacco distributor as an entity who first brings tobacco into the state and it is unlawful for an entity to act as a distributor without being licensed.

Q. Does a store need a special license to sell cigars, pipe tobacco, or snuff?

A. If the store purchases tobacco products, tax-paid, from a Colorado licensed tobacco distributor then a Colorado tobacco license is not necessary. If the store purchases product from unlicensed distributors, check FYI Excise 15 at <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite?c=Page&childpagename=Revenue%2FREVLayout&cid=1193047057284&pagename=REVXWrapper> or call the Excise Tax Accounting Section at (303)205-8211x.6879 or email DOR_ExciseTax@state.co.us for more information. A store may be required to obtain a local license to sell tobacco products.